

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



February 6, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Sandstorms curtail Kuwait exercises

Story and photos by Joseph Giordono, Stars and Stripes

UDAIRI RANGE, Kuwait—Fierce, unpredictable sandstorms are beginning to wreak havoc on desert training schedules for U.S. troops.

And despite the chunks of sand in their Meals, Ready to Eat, Marine Corps tank crews hope the brownout conditions hold.

"If this were a combat situation, we could roll right through this," said Capt. Greg Poland, commander of Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

"With visibility like today, we would over-match anything that anybody else in this theater could put on the battlefield. I'd rather fight on a tank in the desert than anywhere else," said the 34-year-old from Burlington, Iowa.

The reason for Poland's confidence, he said, is simple: Marine Corps M1A1 Abrams tanks have thermal gun sights, capable of picking up heat from an enemy's engine through almost anything — including a swirling wall of desert sand.

The mechanized Marines would likely face off against Iraqi T-62 and T-72s, heavily-armored tanks first manufactured by the Soviet in the 1970s. Most of those tanks are not believed to have advanced targeting systems.

But on Monday, Poland and his tank crews were buttoned up inside their tanks, riding out a day-long tempest that cancelled their chance at a live-fire range deep in the northern Kuwaiti desert.

As hundreds of tanks and artillery pieces arrive at desert camps for a possible showdown with Iraq, the Marines who operate them have to "bore sight" the guns. Essentially, that means visually-sighting the tank's main gun to ensure the electronic targeting systems work.

"It's just like zeroing your weapon on the rifle range," said Sgt.



A Marine from 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, walks past a line of tanks at a desert firing range. A sandstorm with wind gusts up to 60 mph forced the Marines to cancel a live-fire training day.

John Landers, 36, of Las Vegas. "It's just a much bigger weapon."

The process, called screening the tanks, requires firing on a target visible from 1,200 meters. Visibility during the storm was less than one-tenth that distance. Tank crews said their targeting systems reported sustained winds of 40 mph, gusting to 60 mph.

Eight massive Abrams tanks from Company D sat on the firing line, main guns at the ready but with engines off. Some of the crews crouched behind the tanks, having a smoke or marveling at the winds.

At times, it seemed like every grain of sand in Kuwait was blowing directly into their faces.

"We were all on the firing line this morning, ready to go, but then this big wall of sand just came over the horizon. It hasn't stopped

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North Korea warns U.S. on pre-emptive moves

by Sang-Hun Choe

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Pre-emptive attacks on North Korea's nuclear facilities would trigger a "total war," the communist state warned Thursday after Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld labeled the North's government a "terrorist regime."

The White House said North Korea's talk of war was a "real cause for concern." Presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer said the United States had "robust plans for any contingencies," including military action.

The harsh rhetoric came a day after North Korea said it was putting the operation of its nuclear facilities on a "normal footing," triggering fears it was about to produce weapons materials. South Korea said it had no sign that the North had reactivated its nuclear facilities, but officials said the North's statements were unclear and that they were trying to clear them up.

"When the U.S. makes a surprise attack on our peaceful facilities, it will spark off a total war," the state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary carried by North Korea's official news agency, KCNA.

Ri Pyong Gap, a spokesman and deputy director at the North's Foreign Ministry, told London's The Guardian newspaper that the impoverished country was entitled to launch a pre-emptive strike against the United States.

"The United States says that after Iraq, we are next," the paper quoted Ri as saying, "but we have our own countermeasures. Pre-emptive attacks are not the exclusive right of the U.S."

In Washington, Fleischer reiterated that President Bush believes the standoff can be resolved peacefully, but he said the United States was preparing military contingencies.

U.S. officials have spoken before about their ability to respond to any potential hostile action by North Korea, in part to dispel any hopes Pyongyang may have about taking advantage of Bush's focus on Iraq. The nuclear standoff with North Korea, which intensified last fall, has complicated Bush's efforts to rally the nation and skeptical world leaders behind his bid to disarm Saddam Hussein.



A North Korean soldier keeps an eagle eye as he stands guard at the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, north of Seoul, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003. The DMZ remains the most vivid symbol of the threat of war on the Korean peninsula, all the more pressing with international tension over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development. (AP Photo/Yun Jai-hyoung)

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Sandstorms curtail Kuwait exercises continued

since," said Cpl. Anthony Guittierez, a 19-year-old gunner from San Diego, wrapped up behind goggles, knit cap and a full face mask.

"We got here last night, and we were all looking forward to sending some ordnance downrange."

Before that happens, the tank crews said they would ride out the storm, hoping for a break in the weather so that they could complete the crucial gun-sighting process.

"You can barely see the tanks on the firing line, so you definitely can't see the targets downrange," Poland said. "This is something we can't afford not to be patient about."

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Cpl. Anthony Guittierez, of 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, removes .50-caliber ammo while he waits out a sandstorm on the Udairi Range in the Kuwaiti desert.

World reaction to Powell U.N. presentation mixed

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

reinforce the capacity for monitoring (and) collecting information in Iraq.”

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, 2003 — Representatives of three countries made statements of strong support for the U.S. position on Iraq following Secretary of State Colin Powell’s presentation to the U.N. Security Council Feb. 5. A few appeared strongly against war, and others appear to be fence-sitting.

Great Britain, Spain and Bulgaria showed strong support immediately after Powell spoke. Representatives of Security Council member nations were given the opportunity to make short statements during the meeting.

British Foreign Minister Jack Straw called Powell’s presentation “a most powerful and authoritative case.” Britain has been America’s staunchest ally regarding Iraq.

“The international community owes (Powell) its thanks for laying bare the deceit practiced by the regime of Saddam Hussein and, worse, the very great danger which that regime represents,” Straw said.

The representatives of Spain and Bulgaria voiced similar sentiments.

Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio echoed statements made by American leaders on many occasions, that inspections are not an end unto themselves, but rather a means to judge Iraqi cooperation. “The inspections can only bear fruit if Iraq cooperates actively, and to date, it has not done so,” she said.

Palacio told the council its credibility before the international community is at stake.

The representative from Bulgaria said his country will “face its high responsibilities” to disarm Saddam Hussein on behalf of the Iraqi people. “The Iraqi people deserve a better destiny and a peaceful future,” Minister for Foreign Affairs Solomon Pasi said. “And Bulgaria is ready to contribute towards achieving this goal.”

France, Germany and Mexico urged the council members to depend on the work of the inspectors. France, in particular, seemed determined to avoid war regardless of what the inspectors next report when they address the Security Council Feb. 14 and regardless of how long such inspections could go on without reaching a conclusion.

“Let us double, let us triple the number of inspectors. Let us open up more regional offices. Let us go further than this,” French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said. “Could we not, for example, ... set up a specialized body to keep under surveillance the sites and areas that have already been inspected? Let us very significantly



Iraq’s U.N. representative, Mohammed al-Douri, not unexpectedly, dismissed Powell’s presentation as “utterly unrelated to the truth.” He suggested Powell’s tapes of conversations were fabrications and that Iraq’s 12,000-page declaration of its weapons and weapons programs is “accurate, comprehensive and updated.”

In a Jan. 27 report to the Security Council, chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix called the Iraqi declaration “rich in volume, but poor in information, and practically devoid of new evidence.”

China and Russia are examples of countries that expressed noticeably mixed messages. The Chinese representative welcomed “the U.S. move to provide the United Nations with this information and evidence on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.” But he also said the Security Council should decide the next step, an indication China doesn’t want the United States going it alone in any military move.

“As long as there is still the slightest hope for political settlement, we should exert our utmost effort to achieve that,” Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Tang Jiaxuan said.

Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov also urged countries to work through the United Nations. “The inspectors alone can recommend to the Security Council how much time they need to carry out the tasks entrusted to them,” he said. But at the same time, he said Iraq must answer legitimate questions Powell raised.

U.S. leaders have repeatedly said the United States will not wait for the Security Council to reach a unanimous resolution to use force if President Bush feels there is no other choice. The United Kingdom especially has backed up this position.

“Saddam is defying every one of us, every nation here represented,” Straw said at the Security Council meeting. “He questions our resolve and is gambling that we will lose our nerve rather than enforce our will.”

In a statement to reporters, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan withheld judgment on Powell’s presentation. He said he’d let the inspectors follow through on the information and report back.

At the same time, however, Annan also urged Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi government to more fully cooperate when the lead inspectors return to Baghdad Feb. 8, “for the sake of their own people, for the region, and for the sake of world order.”

U.S. land, air and sea forces in Persian Gulf growing

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - The buildup of American land, sea and air forces in the Persian Gulf is accelerating, with two and possibly three more aircraft carriers likely to head for the region in the next few days, officials said.

In addition to the three carriers within striking range of Iraq and a fourth on its way, the Navy is prepared to dispatch the USS Kitty Hawk from its station in Japan and the USS Nimitz from San Diego. If still another were needed, to total seven, it likely would be the USS George Washington from Norfolk, Va.

The number of U.S. troops in the region now stands at about 113,000 - nearly half of them in Kuwait, the main launch point for a U.S.-led ground invasion - and it is expected to reach 150,000 by Feb. 15, a senior official said Wednesday.

President Bush says he has not made a decision on using force to disarm Iraq. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday, in arguing the administration's case against Saddam Hussein before the U.N. Security Council, that the time is approaching for the world to declare "enough is enough."

U.S. forces have been assembling in the Gulf region since December, including a seven-ship Navy fleet that entered the Red Sea this week carrying about 7,000 Marines from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Camp Lejeune, N.C. A similar size group of California-based Marines is en route to the Gulf on seven other ships.

There are about 50,000 troops in Kuwait and that number will climb further, officials said.

A senior defense official who is familiar with U.S. military planning for possible war in Iraq said the Navy will have six or seven aircraft carriers within striking distance of Iraq by the end of this month. Three are within range now - the USS Harry S. Truman in the Mediterranean Sea and the USS Abraham Lincoln and the USS Constellation in the Persian Gulf or Arabian Sea - and a fourth, the USS Theodore Roosevelt is en route.

If the Kitty Hawk went to the Gulf, the USS Carl Vinson would replace it in the Pacific to maintain a carrier presence within striking distance of North Korea, several defense officials said. During the war in Afghanistan the Kitty Hawk operated in the Arabian Sea with a contingent of special operations forces aboard. This time it would be expected to play the more conventional role of launching air missions over Iraq.

Mid-February is widely thought to be the earliest date that U.S. forces would be ready to launch an invasion of Iraq, but officials - all of them speaking on condition of anonymity - said Wednesday that



US Navy sailor Charles Cornelison from Goldhill, Ore., keeps watch from on board the USS Constellation as it approached Manama Port, Bahrain, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003. The Constellation is part of the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf region in preparation for a possible attack on Iraq. (AP Photo/Adam Butler)

they may need some weeks beyond that. By early March, the size of the U.S. force is likely to exceed 200,000 troops.

Also Wednesday, a veteran analyst of the Iraqi military, Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said in a new report that Iraq is building a two-ring defense of Baghdad, the Iraqi capital. Iraq also is erecting an extensive structure of barrier and other defenses in key cities, he wrote.

"There are also indications that some elements of the Republican Guards may be training in urban warfare to fight in civilian dress, and that Iraq will deliberately mix such loyalist elements, the security services and popular forces in civilian dress to fight urban battles under conditions where the U.S. and British may find it impossible to distinguish combatants from civilians," Cordesman wrote.

There is no reliable estimate of Iraq's exact military strength, Cordesman said. He estimates there are 389,000 full-time active duty troops, 2,200 to 2,600 battle tanks, 3,700 other armored vehicles, 2,400 major artillery weapons and 300 combat aircraft. He estimates Iraq has 850 surface-to-air missile launchers and about 3,000 anti-aircraft guns.

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U.N.: Iraq must improve its cooperation

by Hamza Hendawi

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The chief U.N. nuclear inspector on Thursday demanded Iraq show a "drastic change" in its cooperation with the hunt for banned weapons of mass destruction a day after the United States said Baghdad was trying to foil the search.

Inspectors in Iraq, meanwhile, continued the scouring the country as their chiefs, Mohamed ElBaradei and Hans Blix, prepared to press Iraqi officials for greater cooperation.

Blix and ElBaradei also were to challenge Iraqi officials to respond to issues raised by Secretary of State Colin Powell at the Security Council Wednesday, said Hiro Ueki, their spokesman. The inspection chiefs hold talks in Baghdad this weekend.

Powell presented a carefully prepared case before the council Wednesday that Iraq was defying demands it disarm and detailed alleged ways Baghdad was eluding inspectors. Iraq dismissed Powell's presentation as a collection of "stunts" and "special effects" designed to create a pretext for war.

"Iraq is not cooperating fully, they need to show drastic change in terms of cooperation," ElBaradei said in London after he and Blix met British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Blix and ElBaradei will be in Baghdad in advance of their next report to the Security Council on Feb. 14. Blix told the council Jan. 27 that Iraq has yet to show a "genuine" desire to disarm, an assertion that prompted the Iraqis to pledge more cooperation.

"We need to show progress in our report," ElBaradei said Thursday. "Our mission in Baghdad this weekend is crucial. We hope we will secure full, 100 percent cooperation on the part of Iraq."

Powell told CBS' "60 Minutes II" in an interview that he would be watching the trip closely to see "whether they bring back anything of use for Security Council deliberations" next week.

In his 75-minute televised presentation Wednesday, Powell used satellite pictures, recorded telephone intercepts and defectors' statements to provide what he called "irrefutable and undeniable" evidence that Saddam was hiding weapons of mass destruction.

Powell's presentation was not shown by Iraq's state television, and Thursday's newspapers, which are under tight government control, made no mention of Powell's remarks.

During the 1990s, previous U.N. inspection teams oversaw the destruction of many banned weapons and production programs under U.N. resolutions adopted after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War. The new inspections, resumed in November after a four-year gap, are aimed at finding leftover weapons and determining whether the Iraqis resumed their production in the inspectors' absence.

After more than 500 inspections, the arms monitors have not produced any major evidence that Iraq has such weapons or maintains the capability to produce them.



Chief United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix leaves London's Heathrow Airport by car for a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003. Blix is en route to Baghdad to meet with senior Iraqi officials before reporting to the U.N. Security Council on Feb. 14. (AP Photo/Str)

Thursday's inspections included a military engineering academy, a brewery and an army complex that includes a missile site west of Baghdad. They also paid surprise visits to the water and sewage authority and the laboratories of a health care complex in Baghdad. Inspectors returned to a storage facility belonging to Al-Tuwaitiha, the center of Iraq's former atomic program south of Baghdad, which they had inspected the day before.

Presidential adviser Lt. Gen. Amir al-Saadi, speaking at a news conference in Baghdad on Wednesday night, suggested that telephone monitored Iraqi conversations played by Powell were fabricated, that defector informants were unreliable, and that the satellite photographs he displayed "proved nothing."

"What we heard today was for the general public and mainly the uninformed, in order to influence their opinion and to commit the aggression on Iraq," al-Saadi said.

"This was a typical American show, complete with stunts and special effects," he said.

Most U.S. allies want more time for U.N. weapons inspectors to do their work. But President Bush has signaled his impatience with the inspections process and pledged to disarm Iraq forcibly if it does not immediately comply with U.N. resolutions - with or without its allies. The United States already has some 100,000 troops amassed in the Gulf region and the number could rise to 180,000 in a matter of weeks.

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Saddam's rhetoric refers to ancient past

by Nadia Abou El-Magd

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - He likens himself to an ancient emperor, calls his enemies Mongol raiders, and urges his people to hold their swords high. As Iraq turns up the anti-American rhetoric, Saddam Hussein is using images of the past to rally his people to face the dangers of here and now.

"The people of Baghdad have resolved to compel the Mongols of this age to commit suicide on its walls," Saddam declared in a recent speech, comparing Americans with the Asian fighters who destroyed Baghdad more than 800 years ago.

In Baghdad, a billboard displays portraits of Saddam and the Biblical King Nebuchadnezzar and describes the ancient leader as a man who "brought his empire to a peak of wealth and power."

There are even historical references in the names of the sites that Iraqi weapons inspectors have visited. Hetteen Fateh Explosives Factory is named after a battle in which the medieval leader Saladin won back Jerusalem from European crusaders in 1187.

A factory in the Rasheed State Company complex that produces propellant for solid fuel missiles is named for Mamoun, who ruled

from 813 to 833.

Saddam himself likes to weave classical images into his public addresses.

He has called on his people to "hold your swords" high - conjuring images of ancient heroism in the face of Americans' high-tech superiority.

Invoking swords delivers the message that "Iraqis will be victorious because God is on their side," said Ofra Bengio, a senior research fellow at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies who has studied Saddam's rhetoric.

Bengio wrote a book, "Saddam's Word: The Political Discourse in Iraq," that documented Saddam's pattern of blurring past, present and future in the rhetoric he uses to inspire Iraqis in the face of conflict.

Still, the words may sometimes miss their mark. Ali Abdel-Amir, an Iraqi writer now living in exile in Jordan, recalled listening to Saddam speeches during his days in the Iraqi army during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war and the 1991 Gulf War, both devastating for Iraq.

"The more Saddam increased his rhetoric about historical and Islamic achievements, the more we felt we were about to face a devastating defeat," Abdel-Amir said.

Saddam refers to the eight-year war with Iran, which claimed 1 million lives on both sides, al-Qadissiya - the name of the decisive battle in which the Arab Muslim army inflicted a huge defeat on Persia in 637. He depicts the Gulf War as the victorious UmAl Maarek, or "mother of all battles."

The Iraqi leader's words often mix the historical with the religious.

Saddam's Baath Party is officially secular, but in 1993 he launched "the grand faith campaign" in what was seen as a bid to win the loyalty of Iraqis who had turned to religion after losing loved ones in war and as their economy suffered under sanctions.

Saddam himself is sometimes called Rasul al-Arab, or "prophet of the Arabs," and Seif al-Arab, or "sword of the Arabs."

Isam al-Khafaji, an Iraqi and a professor at Amsterdam University's International School of Humanities and Social Sciences, said Saddam often uses such language because he has no new ways to mobilize the people.

"The days of this regime are numbered, and he knows it, but no president would tell his people that he knows that he is sure he will be defeated," al-Khafaji said in a telephone interview.

In the state-controlled media, any present-day Iraqi suffering is

U.N.: Iraq must improve its cooperation continued

Of the 15 Council members, only the United States and Britain have offered unwavering support for forcibly disarming Saddam.

Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Al-Douri, who took part in Wednesday's Security Council session, said he was satisfied that most of the council - including France, Germany and Syria - favored giving inspectors more time to do their work rather than rushing to military action.

"It's obvious that Mr. Powell's remarks did not achieve the results the U.S. administration intended," Al-Douri said.

Al-Saadi, Saddam's science adviser, said the telephone conversations Powell played to the Security Council purporting to show Iraqi officers conspiring to deceive the weapons inspectors, were just fabrications.

"Any third-rate intelligence outfit" could manufacture such tapes, he said. "It's simply untrue and not genuine because we have nothing to hide."

Turning to satellite photographs that Powell described as being a chemical weapons storage facility, al-Saadi said they were old and "proved nothing." Similar photos were checked by U.N. teams who found allegations of suspicious activities to be unfounded, he added.

He also challenged Powell to prove that Baghdad was issuing false death certificates for scientists wanted for private interviews with inspectors, and dismissed his claim that documents on banned weapons' programs were being concealed at the homes of scientists.

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North Korea warns U.S. on pre-emptive moves continued

Rumsfeld said Wednesday that restarting the nuclear program would give the North a troubling option - making nuclear weapons for itself or selling them to any other country.

"That is something the world has to take very seriously," he said. "It's a regime that is a terrorist regime. It's a regime that has been involved in things that are harmful to other countries."

North Korea announced in December it would reactivate its nuclear facilities, frozen since 1994, but statements Wednesday left it unclear whether it has already done so.

In an English-language statement, North Korea said Wednesday that it "is now putting the operation of its nuclear facilities for the production of electricity on a normal footing after their restart."

However, a Korean-language statement monitored by South Korea's Yonhap news agency referred only to "our process to restart nuclear facilities for generating electricity and normalize their operation."

Both North Korean statements were carried on KCNA, the North's official news agency.

The North's nuclear facilities include a 5-megawatt nuclear reactor, a storage building for 8,000 spent fuel rods and a plant where those rods could be reprocessed to yield enough plutonium for four or five bombs in a matter of months.

Last week, U.S. officials said spy satellites detected covered trucks apparently taking on cargo near the storage building.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the Vienna-based U.N. nuclear monitoring agency, said it couldn't confirm any new nuclear activities because its inspectors were expelled in December.

The most immediate step the North could take is likely to be restarting the reactor, which can produce more spent fuel rods, South Korean officials said.

"We are trying various channels to confirm what it means," said an official at the South Korean Foreign Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "At this moment, we have no information to confirm that North Korea has reactivated its nuclear facilities, that is the reactor and other key facilities."

North Korea said in December that it was reactivating its facilities to

generate badly needed electricity. But U.S. officials say the amount of electricity that can be produced in the Yongbyon facilities is negligible.

The North froze its nuclear facilities in a 1994 energy deal with the United States, but the deal unraveled after U.S. officials said in October that North Korea had admitted embarking on a second, clandestine nuclear program.

Washington and its allies suspended oil shipments as punishment. The North then took steps to restart the nuclear facilities, expelled U.N. monitors and withdrew from a global nuclear arms control treaty.

The U.N. nuclear agency's 35-nation board of governors will meet next Wednesday to discuss the standoff and is almost certain to send the dispute to the U.N. Security Council - a move that could lead to economic sanctions against Pyongyang.



U.S. soldiers practice the South Korean martial art Taekwondo at a U.S. army base in Uijongbu, north of Seoul, February 6, 2003. The United States is ready to deal with "any contingencies" involving North Korea, a White House spokesman said on Thursday in response to new warnings by Pyongyang that it could strike U.S. forces preemptively. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the remarks by North Korean deputy foreign minister director Ri Pyong-gap — who was quoted in Britain's Guardian newspaper as saying "preemptive attacks are not the exclusive right of the U.S." — further isolate North Korea internationally. Reuters photo.

Saddam's rhetoric refers to ancient past continued

largely blamed on the outside world. Abdel-Amir said Iraqis tune to foreign radio for their only information besides "the regime's propaganda."

"The Iraqis are brainwashed and they have no other alternative but to believe what their ruler has been telling them," Bengio said. "Most probably they know the truth but they are powerless to do anything with it."

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Results of Army education summit addressed

The Army held its second education summit in July of 2002. The purpose of the summit was twofold: Institutionalize and expand partnerships among school systems and military communities, and address the issue of in-state college tuition for soldiers and family members.

The Army's Secondary Education Transition Study (SETS) action plan serves to ease the challenges our teens confront as they transition between schools. Pivotal to that effort is the SETS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). By entering into this agreement, signatories make a personal commitment to a collaborative effort working to ensure transferring students are not penalized by their parent's service to the nation. It is the responsibility of Army leadership at every level to set the conditions for institutionalization of the practices outlined in the agreement. By continuing to develop

relationships with the superintendent of schools on the installation and surrounding communities all students whose parents serve in the Department of Defense will benefit.

Army Education Summit recommendations were:

- * Establish national SETS steering committee for MOA signatories.
- * Educate leaders on the SETS MOA by integrating it as a topic in programs of instruction for command and senior level NCO courses.
- * Engage in dialogue with other services on the benefits of the SETS MOA.
- * Provide a DA-level web forum for MOA signatories.

Cave-search operation ends

by Mark Kennedy, Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — U.S. troops have finished checking all the caves on a mountainside in southern Afghanistan — the site of a deadly skirmish last month — without finding any more militants, a U.S. military spokesman said Thursday.

Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division on Thursday finished inspecting or destroying the 75 caves dotting the Adi Ghar mountainside some 15 miles northeast of Spinboldak, near the Pakistan border. Eighteen militants were killed in a Jan. 27 firefight on the mountain, but there were no U.S. casualties.

Since the cave-clearing operation began, U.S. troops have reported being fired on by a gunman who escaped, and later spotting a man armed with an AK-47 rifle. Cooking smoke also was seen coming from one of the caves. But no one has been captured since two men were detained during the firefight.

"We didn't find them in the caves. They may still be in the region. We may have other opportunities to find them," said Col. Roger King, a U.S. military spokesman at Bagram Air Base. He declined to elaborate on future plans for the operation.

"Were we successful in what we set out to do? Yes. There was a number of the enemy that were killed and there is a large area that is no longer useful to them as a base of operations," King said. "I'd say we met the mission."

One Afghan man was detained Thursday night near the eastern city of Khost after allegedly being found with five 122 mm rockets. King said the rockets, each about 10 feet long with a range of six miles, could have targeted two nearby U.S. bases.

Three Afghan children were treated Thursday at the Bagram base after they were apparently were playing with a piece of unexploded ordinance that suddenly detonated. The children suffered blast injuries to their hands and flash burns to their faces. They were in stable condition.

As of November 2002 the Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) had 32 SETS MOA signatories. Additionally, many installations are hosting the Transition Counselor Institute (TCI), which offers training to help high school guidance counselors understand issues related to military children. Fort Monroe and Fort Eustis are co-hosting the TCI in March 2003.

Participants at the summit also recommended the Army support initiatives to make in-state tuition policies more favorable to soldiers and their families. In-state tuition reciprocity for soldiers and familymembers is a challenge since it is largely a state issue and must be addressed state by state. The Army G1 is putting together a strategic plan to outline the issues and work toward issue resolution.

Installation commanders/commandants are key to influencing the issues. School liaison officers at each installation are available for information and assistance.



National Guard Sgt. Thomas Oakley uses a can of spray paint as Sgt. Joe Gilliam holds a template on his duffel bag while preparing for deployment Wednesday in Morehead, Ky. AP photo.

Korea — 50 years ago this week, Feb. 6-12, 1953

Taylor takes command of Eighth Army

by Jim Caldwell

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 5, 2003) — Gen. James Van Fleet turned over command of Eighth Army to Lt. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, 50 years ago in Korea, as inclement weather limited combat along the front.

Feb. 6, 1953 — President Dwight D. Eisenhower issues an executive order to remove all controls on prices and wages under the 1950 Defense Production Act and to abolish the Office of Price Stabilization by April 30.

The controls, to be removed in stages, are first lifted from meat, furniture, clothing, most department store goods, and meals and drinks in restaurants and bars.

Eisenhower says the action is necessary because “production of materials and services and the demand therefore in the national economy are approaching a practical balance.” The order also removes restraints on collective bargaining.

Senator John Sparkman (D-Ala.), vice president candidate last year, challenges Ike in the Senate to explain whether a new Formosa policy is “the first step toward enlarging the war in Asia ... involving U.S. forces on the mainland of China.”

Feb. 6-12 — Combat on the ground or in the air is limited this week because of rainy weather. The rain thaws out frozen earth turning it to mud, and low clouds interfere with air operations.

The Air Force does report that from Jan. 31-Feb. 6, at least two MiGs were shot down while one U.N. plane was lost to groundfire and two to “other causes.”

Pyeongyang radio reports Feb. 7 that Premier and Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung has been promoted to generalissimo.

The ROK Interior Department announces Feb. 7 that government security forces have killed 1,042 communist guerrillas and captured 340.

Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. Supreme Commander, announces Feb. 8 that the U.S. Army has authorized the expansion of the South Korean Army from 12 to 14 divisions.

The U.N. Command reports Feb. 10 that North Korean POWs on Kojedo rioted yesterday and five were killed in a “deliberate attempt ... to test our strength and create another incident.” A Feb. 5 riot by the North Koreans on Kojedo resulted in a prisoner’s death, the spokesman says.

Gen. James Van Fleet gives a farewell message to the Eighth Army Feb. 10. He says the only way the communists saved themselves in the spring of 1951 was by “asking for an armistice.” Soldiers must “obey orders,” he says, and expresses “faith that President Eisenhower will find a way to bring peace.”

The next day Van Fleet turns command of Eighth Army over to Lt. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor.

Van Fleet is asked by a reporter if the Eighth Army can defeat the communists in an offensive. “Certainly,” is the general’s reply.

A large crowd of South Koreans gives Van Fleet a send-off at the Seoul airport. He then flies to Japan, the first stop on his way home.

Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) says that the general will be invited to present his views of the war to the committee.

Taylor immediately makes his presence felt. He drops “Korea” from the command’s title so it will be the Eighth U.S. Army. He also says that reserve divisions will undergo an eight-week training program before returning to the line. Taylor also stresses the need for better planning and patrol rehearsals.

As Taylor takes command in Korea, his boss, Gen. Clark, is concerned about the large buildup of enemy ground troops near the front and the growing communist airpower. If an enemy offensive begins, he fears that bombers based in Manchuria could fly low-level missions against U.N. airfields in the south. Wiping out the airfields would leave the U.N. allies with only piston-driven aircraft to face the MiG jets.

He asks the Joint Chiefs of Staff for permission to bomb the air bases in Manchuria if they threatened U.N. forces. The reply he receives, coordinated with the political side of the government, is to hold off. Before he takes action he is to inform the JCS and a decision will be made at that time.

Lt. Gen. Otto P. Weyland, Far East Air Force commander, is also concerned, but is confident that U.N. forces can repel a communist offensive. Weyland tells Clark Feb. 11, “In fact, I believe that an attempt by the communists can be made a most costly venture for him and would provide opportunity for an outstanding U.N. victory.”

The Air Force announces Feb. 12 that the World War II F-51 Mustang fighter will be withdrawn from the Korean Theater.



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New Mexico National Guard Staff Sgt. Mike Sisk, Staff Sgt. Sonny Wiseman and Maj. Beverley Simpson, from left, recover a large piece of wreckage from the space shuttle Columbia near Nacogdoches, Texas on Wednesday. AP photo.



Members of the FBI dive team and Coast Guard pull up a robotic camera and sonar unit while searching for debris from the space shuttle Columbia in the Toledo Bend Reservoir on Wednesday. AP photo.

Taylor takes command of Eighth Army continued

Feb. 9-10 — The U.N. Economic Committee on Asia and the Far East, meeting in Bandoeng, Indonesia, defeats a Feb. 5 Soviet attempt to seat a Chinese delegation and bar Nationalist China, South Vietnam and South Korea from the committee.

Feb. 11 — The Defense Department announces that U.S. casualties in Korea as of Feb. 6 stand at 129,819, including 22,890 dead.

Eisenhower denies clemency to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted atomic spies, because there is “neither new evidence nor ... mitigating circumstances to justify clemency. The Rosenbergs “betrayed the cause of freedom” and “have been accorded their full measure of justice,” he says.

(Editor’s note: Jim Caldwell is a senior correspondent for the TRADOC News Service.)



Two hearses leave Barksdale Air Force Base, La. on Wednesday. The vehicles were used to transport remains of the space shuttle Columbia astronauts from the base to the Air Force C-141 aircraft was used to airlift the remains to Dover Air Force Base, Del. AP photo.